ROM November 1975

Royal Ontario Museum
100 Queen's Park, Toronto M5S 2C6

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ROM is published 11 times each year by the Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6

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This publication is printed on stock containing 25% de-inked, recycled fibre.

ROM cover: *Bear* 1956
Bone carving from Pangnirtung, courtesy of Mr. M. F. Feheley.

Chairman's Newsletter

This month I would like to tell you about our newly renovated Central European Gallery, which, with its splendid display of baroque and rococo treasures, was officially opened on September 15 by our new Director, Dr. James E. Cruise.

The west wing of the building in which the European gallery has its new display was constructed before World War I, and was officially opened in March, 1914. Right from the very beginning the European Department was divided into an English section and a continental one. English Materials were easier to acquire in Upper Canada, and soon a chronologically arranged collection of English treasures in silver, woodwork, glass and pottery began to emerge. This has been greatly enhanced over the years by our many generous donors who have contributed so much to our wealth of material on view to the public.

The continental materials did not fare so well in those early days, and French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch and German objects often jostled one another in the Royal Ontario Museum, much like the back room of an auction house in an English provincial town. The department faced this situation in various stages.

The newly renovated gallery contains a number of art works which have never previously been publicly exhibited in Canada. The gallery, which concentrates on the Baroque period (17th and 18th centuries), features mainly crafts of Austria and Germany, although some of Northern Italy, Northeastern France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, and Poland, covering the same period, are represented.

A major portion of the exhibition has been acquired by the Museum from Canadian and European collectors. These include furniture by Baroque period craftsmen in Germany such as Röntgen, Rhode, Raab, Plitzner and Brickard; silverwork of the same period by Bauer, Thelot, Hauglin and Daniel Müller, porcelain by Du Paquier, Kaendler, Kirchner, Boettger and Feiler, glass by Kunckl and Killinger.

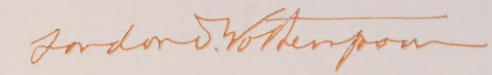
One of the highlights of the new gallery is four rare "Polonaise" rugs, 17th-century Persian carpets with gold and silver threads interwoven with silk, specially made for European aristocracy. Only 300 are now in existence, and those in the new gallery are the only ones in Canada. This is the first time that they have been publicly shown.

Mr. Heri Hickl-Szabo (left), Curator of the European Department, speaking with Mr. G. D. Wotherspoon at the Central European Gallery's opening.

Other items of interest are: a small altar for private devotion, the combined effort of Thelot and Plitzner; an astrolabe by Johann Georg Nestfell; a pair of pistols by Lorenz Dressler (about 1570); an oval platter by Bernard Palissy, the French mannerist potter who is said to have dipped live insects or reptiles in glaze to decorate his creations; and a Backgammon board attributed to Plitzner, with marquetry so fine that it can be mistaken for paint.

Again this year, through the generosity of Mr. Garfield Weston, the Museum has acquired for the European Department a large number of objects, mostly English furniture of the 18th and 19th centuries. Outstanding are a George I architect's desk, a set of William IV chairs with metal inlaid work, plus many others. Two Chippendale pieces, a table and a serpentine-front chest of drawers presented by Mr. Weston, will be returned from a loan group now at the Windsor Art Gallery. One of the exceptional pieces in the collection is a Renaissance bronze figure allegorically depicting winter.

The newly renovated Central European Gallery is a fine addition to the European department, and one of which we should be proud.



G. D. Wotherspoon,
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Spotlight

Persian Perspectives: November 26-27

In keeping with the ROM's continuing cultural interest in Iran, a varied programme has been planned to bring into focus some of the outstanding aspects of Iran's history:

1. An exhibition of drawings and sections of palaces in Isfahan (formerly the capital city), reveals the unique structural solutions devised by 17th century Persian architects (2nd Floor, Near Eastern Rotating Gallery).
2. A special programme of films on Iran will be shown in the ROM Theatre on Wednesday, November 26 at 7:30 pm. Free.
3. A lecture entitled "Architecture and City-planning in 17th Century Iran", by Dr. Lisa Golombek of ROM's West Asian Department, who will discuss the palaces of Isfahan in further detail. Thursday, November 27 at 4:30 pm in Room 4. Free with Museum admission.
4. The programme culminates with Lady Jellicoe's illustrated lecture, "Persian Palace Paintings", on palace paintings of the Qajar period, which was the threshold of the Oil Age. Lady Jellicoe was born in Shanghai, and her life-long involvement in the diplomatic service and the arts provides a fascinating backdrop for her subject. Thursday, November 27. Planetarium Lecture Room, 8:30 pm. Free.

During this month an exhibition featuring the art of the Islamic Book will also be on view on the second floor of the Robarts Library, University of Toronto.

Opening of Animals in Art - October 6

Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, distinguished bird artist, who officially opened the current exhibition, "Animals in Art", standing beside two of his paintings, Great Horned Owl and Bald Eagle, on opening night.

Sir Peter Scott, noted waterfowl artist, and his wife, Lady Scott, look at one of his paintings, Barnacle Geese on the Merse at Caerlaverock on the Solway Firth, at the opening of the exhibition, "Animals in Art".

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November 1975

Animals in Art to December 14
This international exhibition of wildlife art includes more than 300 paintings and sculptures. About 150 artists, whose works were chosen after critical appraisal by a selection committee of 9 authorities, are represented. Works shown are by artists, past and present, from 25 countries. Only representations of wild, free animals are shown, chosen after careful evaluation for both their zoological accuracy and artistic quality.

Major museums, libraries, and private collections around the world have loaned the art works to the ROM. The show includes works of such artists as J. J. Audubon, Richard Friese, Wilhelm Kuhnert, Bruno Liljefors, and Carl Rungius.
Exhibition Hall

As part of "Animals in Art", a collection of historic books on wildlife are on display in the Third Floor Rotunda. An illustrated catalogue of the exhibition ($2.50), posters ($2.00) and other related material are available. Admission is $1 for adults plus museum admission of 50¢. (After 5 pm museum admission is free.) Accompanied children, students and senior citizens with identification, 50¢. No advance booking.

Free one-hour programmes of films and lectures relating to the "Animals in Art" exhibition are being held in the ROM Theatre on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm to December 9. The exhibition remains open following these programmes until 9 pm.

November 4
"The Gallery of the Horned God"
Demorest Davenport, Professor of Zoology, University of California, will present an illustrated lecture outlining the manner in which the natural history of many animals gives them special significance in the thoughts of man and hence in his "mythology" and art.

November 11
"Bighorn" (10 min)
"Polar Bear" (28 min)
"The Winged World: Instincts and Intelligence in Birds" (25 min)

November 18
"A Naturalist Looks at Animals in Art"
Terry Shortt, Chief Artist of ROM's Art Department, will discuss the "Animals in Art" exhibition which he helped organize. Included are highlights in wildlife art over the years such as the 'discovery' of Lady Elizabeth Gwillim whose life-size studies of birds pre-date Audubon.

November 25
"Snow Monkeys: Extinct is Forever" (7 min)
"Wild Africa: The Energy Cycle" (25 min)
"Animal Landlord" (25 min)

The Vanishing Jungle to November 30
The World Wildlife Fund recently sponsored an international drawing competition as part of its campaign to preserve the tropical rainforest. Twenty drawings, to be used as stamp designs, were judged and selected by an International Jury. Five Canadians were among the winners. A selection of the entries will be on display, to coincide with Animals in Art.
Lower Rotunda

Cornelius Krieghoff (1815-1872), Genre Painter of Early Canada to December 1
One of the largest and most comprehensive Krieghoff exhibitions ever assembled is now at the Canadiana Gallery, featuring 34 oil paintings by the famous 19th-century Quebec painter.
South Gallery, Canadiana Building

World Wildlife Fund Film Gala
November 24 at 8:00 pm
The World Wildlife Fund is sponsoring the Canadian Premiere of the internationally famous film, "Magnificent Monsters of the Deep", a documentary about whales, narrated by Orson Welles.
During the reception prior to the film, Environment Canada will present a multiscreen showing by the Film Board of Canada.
The current exhibition, "Animals in Art", will be open for viewing during the evening.

Tickets $25.00 per person ($20.00 tax deductible). Available from The World Wildlife Fund (Canada), 60 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto. Telephone 923-8173.

Curator's Career November 11 - February 29, 1976
"Curator's Career" honours Katharine Brett, who retired recently as Curator of the Textile Department. The exhibition focuses on the multidimensional aspects of the collection, which now numbers some 13,000 pieces, and is ranked among the great textile collections of the world. The collection is international in scope, with 9,000 flat textiles and 4,000 costumes and accessories covering a time span from Pre-Columbia Peru and Hellenistic Egypt to the present. The exhibition ranges through four galleries, with representative selections of costumes, embroidery, lace, printed and painted textiles, regional costumes and handweaving acquired by the Museum during Mrs. Brett's 25-year tenure.
Textile Galleries

Stamps to November 2
The Law Stamps of British Columbia
Stamp Corner, Lower Level

Stamps November 4 - December 14
The Gaza Strip
Letters sent to and from the Gaza Strip
Stamp Corner, Lower Level

Destiny continuing to November 30
Mankind's future is intimately tied to the future of our planet, the sun, and the entire universe in this show at the Theatre of the Stars. "Destiny" explores the present knowledge of Earth's place in the universe and its future as the third planet in our solar system.
McLaughlin Planetarium. Show times listed below.

Theatre of the Stars Show Times
Tuesday to Friday: 3, 7:30 pm
Saturday: 1:30, 3, 7:30 pm
Sunday: 1:30, 3, 7:30 pm
Theatre closed on Mondays (except on Holidays). Shows last about 50 minutes. Theatre tickets are $1.50 for adults, $0.75 for senior citizens, students and children, which includes admission to the building displays and Museum. Children under the age of six are not admitted to the theatre.

Laserium is still continuing
Laserium is an entertaining light-and-sound show built around a Krypton gas laser. Show times are Tuesday to Friday at 8:45 pm and 10:00 pm. Saturdays and Sundays 4:15 pm, 8:45 pm and 10 pm. Cost is $2.75 per person.
McLaughlin Planetarium

Films

Sunday Family Films to April 25
Sundays at 2:30 pm, ROM Theatre, free with Museum admission. A film programme designed for the enjoyment of the entire family.
Programme subject to change.
November
2 Little Monday (15 min)
The Adventures of Chico (55 min)
9 We Call Them Killers (16 min)
In Search of the Bowhead Whale (49 min)
16 Tuktu and his Eskimo Dogs (14 min)
The Wild Dogs of Africa (51 min)
23 Charlotte's Web (93 min)
30 Me and You Kangaroo (19 min)
The Wandering Albatross (25 min)
Backpack to Nature (27 min)

Sunday Evening Films to April 25
Sundays at 7:30 pm, ROM Theatre, free.
A series of outstanding features, documentaries and shorts exploring a wide variety of individual and collective lifestyles past and present. Foreign language films appear with English sub-titles. Programme subject to change.
November
2 Dead Birds (85 min)
9 Toys (8 min)
Sad Song of Yellow Skin (58 min)
16 The Shadow Catcher (88 min)
23 Northwest Coast Indians: A Search for the Past (26 min)
In the Land of the War Canoes: Kwakiutl Indian Life on the Northwest Coast (47 min)
30 The Colours of Pride (27 min)
The Other Side of the Ledger (42 min)

Lectures

Thursday, November 13 at 8:30 pm
"Chinese and Japanese Export Furniture"
Planetarium Lecture Room. Free.
An illustrated lecture by Jorgen Schou-Christensen, Curator of the Oriental Collections, Museum of Decorative Art, Copenhagen. Sponsored by the Bishop White Committee.

Persian Perspectives
Thursday, November 27 at 4:30 pm
"Architecture and City-planning in 17th Century Iran"
Room 4. Free with Museum admission.
Dr. Lisa Golombek of ROM's West Asian Department discusses in detail the buildings of Isfahan.

Thursday, November 27 at 8:30 pm
"Persian Palace Paintings"
Planetarium Lecture Room. Free.
An illustrated lecture by Patrica, Countess Jellicoe, well-known lecturer and traveller.

ROM Services

ROM Public Hours, 100 Queen's Park
Tuesday to Saturday: 10 am to 9 pm
Sunday: 1 to 9 pm
Monday: 10 am to 5 pm
Adult admission 50 cents, free after 5 pm. Accompanied children free. Senior citizens and students with identification free.

The ROM's location, Avenue Road at Bloor, is convenient to both the MUSEUM and BAY subway stations.

ROM Libraries
The Reference Library, on the second floor, is open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 5 pm. The Astronomical Library, in the McLaughlin Planetarium, is open Saturdays, 10 am to 5 pm.

ROM Restaurants
A comfortable restaurant serving hot lunches and snacks is located on the main floor by the Armour Court and is open until 7:30 pm. The Dinosaur Den, children's cafeteria on the Lower Level, closes at 4 pm.

Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Building
14 Queen's Park Crescent West. Free admission
Monday to Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday: 1 to 5 pm

Information
Museum: 928-3690
Planetarium 928-8550

ROM Shops
For sale in the Book and Gift Shop is a set of four prints in a portfolio, by Lady Elizabeth Gwillim (1763-1803), reproduced courtesy of the Blacker-Wood Library, McGill University, exclusive to the ROM.

Book and Gift Shop Hours during "Animals in Art":
Tuesday to Saturday: 10:30 am to 6:30 pm
Sunday: 1 to 5 pm
Monday: 10:30 am to 5 pm
Mini shop: closes daily at 4:30 pm

Members' Lounge
A quiet licensed lounge, down the stairs by the main restaurant, is available to members of ROM. Monday: 12-5 pm; Tuesday to Friday: 12 to 9 pm. No service between 3:30 and 4:30 pm.

ROM Membership
Membership in the Museum is a rewarding experience. For $25 annually (individual) or $40 (family with 2 cards), a member receives free admission to ROM, use of the licensed Members' Lounge, a 10 percent discount on purchases over $2.00 at ROM's Shops, invitations to Preview parties, *ROM* the monthly bulletin and *Rotunda* the quarterly magazine. For residents outside Metropolitan Toronto, individual annual membership is $15.
Lifetime Membership in the Museum is also invited as follows:

Life: $500
Fellow: $1,000
Benefactor: $2,500
Endowment: $5,000
Patron: $10,000
Lifetime membership categories are income tax deductible. For further information call 928-3704 or write to the Membership Office.

Preview Cover: *Lone Bull* by David Shepherd, Britain. Oil on canvas.
Courtesy of Glenbow-Alberta Institute.

Tours

ROM Gallery Tours
Weekdays, except holidays. Free with Museum admission. Tours subject to change.

The "Focus on Nature" series of tours are continuing daily at 2 pm until the end of the "Animals in Art" exhibition.

November at 12:15	at 2
3 Sculpture of Ancient Egypt	Animal Fare
4 Masks and Ceremonials	Evolution
5 Floral Designs in ROM Collection	Animals in Chinese Art
6 Chinese Porcelain	Nature's Jewels
7 Catch a Falling Star	Windows on Nature's World
10 English Period Rooms	The Lion, the Bull and the Bear
11 The Buried Past	Animal Fare
12 Chinese Arts	Evolution
13 Medieval Europe	Animals in Chinese Art
14 Survival, A Way of Life	Nature's Jewels
17 Curator's Career (Textiles)	Windows on Nature's World
18 Man in Greek Art	The Lion, the Bull and the Bear
19 Geology, the Changing Earth	Animal Fare
20 Japanese Art	Evolution
21 Impressions of the ROM: A Walking Tour	Animals in Chinese Art
24 Curator's Career (Textiles)	Nature's Jewels
25 Sun Gods through the Ages	Windows on Nature's World
26 Populating the Americas	The Lion, the Bull and the Bear
27 Glory of Athens	Animal Fare
28 Lee Collection of Small Treasures	Evolution

Planetarium Tours
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 pm in the McLaughlin Planetarium

Canadiana Tours
November at 12:15
5 Kreighoff Paintings
12 " "
19 " "
26 General Tours

Inside ROM

Inside the Textile Department

The second-floor textile galleries will reopen November 10 after being closed for five weeks. During this time storage space was expanded and a special exhibition, "Curator's Career", prepared in honour of Katharine Brett, former Curator of the Textile Department, who retired in June of this year.

"Curator's Career" focuses on the many aspects of the collections, emphasizing Mrs. Brett's involvement with them during her 25-year tenure. The exhibition features many of the important acquisitions made during her tenure, aspects of her research and publications. The exhibition, which extends through four galleries, offers a rare insight into one of the human sides of the institution. It is a tribute to the scholarship, knowledge, vision and devotion of one woman and the contributions she has made.

From the founding of the ROM, its "Arts of Man Through All the Years" have included products of loom and needle. Among early acquisitions are important collections of early Christian and Islamic textiles which Dr. Currelly gathered in Egypt while working with Sir Flinders Petrie, the renowned archaeologist. There is a world-famous collection of Ch'ing Dynasty Chinese court costumes acquired by George Crofts, an English fur merchant purchasing for the ROM in China. There are also collections of European decorative silks, laces, and embroideries.

A separate curatorial department was formed in the 1930's. Then, with the 1932 expansion, four galleries were assigned to the Department and a policy of regularly rotating displays was established to ensure the preservation of fragile material. The 30's also witnessed a remarkable growth of collections, including more than 800 items from the private collection of Harry Wearne, an English textile designer. The items were given to the Museum in 1934 by his widow, and overnight the ROM possessed one of the world's finest collections of 18th-century chintz, made in India for the European market, as well as 18th- and 19th-century French and English wood block- and copper plate-printed cottons.

At present the textile collection numbers some 13,000 items, and is ranked among the great collections of the world. It is international in scope, with 9,000 flat textiles and 4,000 costumes and accessories covering a time span from pre-Columbian Peru and Hellenistic Egypt to the present.

The period-costume collection illustrates the history of fashion from the 18th century to the present, with many accessories dating back to the 16th century. It has been formed with a forward-looking policy of collecting contemporary fashions while they are still available, predating similar efforts by many similar institutions by 30 years. At the ROM, the glorious court gown of Georgian England shares storage and display space with the patched and faded blue jeans fashionable today.

A research project aimed at recording the history of handweaving in Canada, inspired by the gift of a single Ontario "overshot" coverlet, was begun by the department in the 1940's. It has resulted in the documentation of this aspect of Canada's heritage and a collection of Canadian textiles unrivalled elsewhere. The people of Canada, and particularly Ontario, lent woven heirlooms for recording, and shared family records and reminiscences documenting textile production in pioneer Canada.

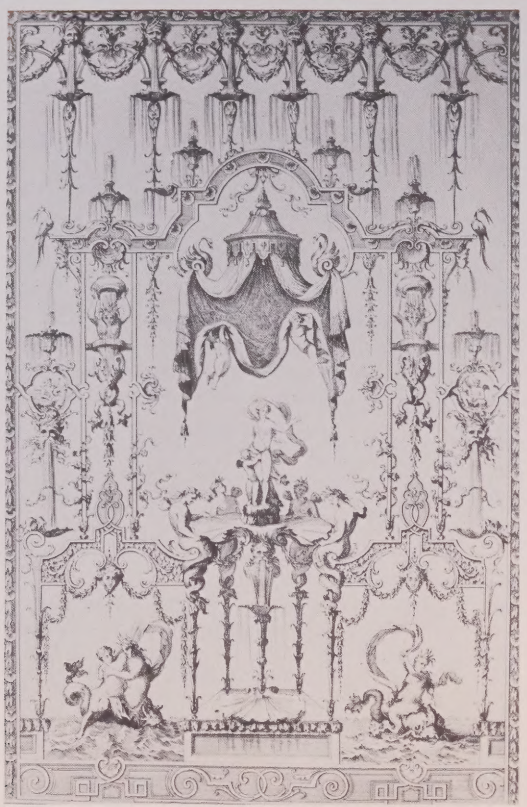
Rare 18th-century, Japanese silk theatrical costume, one of many important acquisitions made during the tenure of Katharine Brett, retired Curator of the Textile Department. The costume will be featured in "Curator's Career".

Eventually many family treasures were given to the ROM to be preserved for the future and to be available to visitors and scholars.

Collections of regional textiles and costumes represent many areas of the world, but those from the Orient, Central Europe and Western Asia are particularly outstanding. They have been gathered by world travellers returning with curios and exotica, by ethnologists collecting cultural artifacts, by Canadian missionaries who sent home examples of material culture, or by recent immigrants who donate items to form a permanent record of their cultural roots.

The Textile Department is concerned with more than the preparation of exhibits. The collections serve as a major resource for craftsmen, designers, collectors, scholars, historians, students, and interested amateurs. Answering questions by phone, mail, or in person, as well as organizing educational programmes, conducting research, maintaining records and storage, and preparing publications on the collections, more than fills the time of eight staff members. Four curators are supported by two full-time technicians, a secretary and a part-time assistant.

John E. Vollmer,
Assistant Curator-in-Charge



European Trade Companies provided Indian chintz painters with designs which were then copied and exported to the West. During her researches on the Harry Wearne collection, Katharine Brett isolated many specific sources, such as this design, adapted from a composition by French designer Jean Berain (1638-1711).

New Members of the Royal Ontario Museum

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